

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, June 30, 1999

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WALSH).

## DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
June 30, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JAMES T. WALSH to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

## PRAYER

The Reverend Don Borling, Pastor, All Saints Lutheran Church, Orland Park, Illinois, offered the following prayer:

O Lord of all life, we come before You as people of peace. Our tasks are awesome. Our calling to serve is precious and, at the same time, very humbling.

Lord, help us always to walk in the shoes of those who brought us here, the factory worker and the artist, the lawyer and the school custodian, the farmer and the cook.

We are the human family, bound together by a spirit with no boundaries, and yet a spirit as real and as simple as the air we breathe every day.

Our world aches for peace. So help us be the instruments of Your healing.

May we be firm but gentle, just and forgiving, full of resolve, and yet always open to the varied dance of Your many voices.

With Your guidance, Lord, we can serve with joy, come to work each day with the goodness of the human spirit in our hearts.

Help us to see the world we serve with fresh vigor, renewed purpose, and the determination to make a difference. It is an honor to be here.

O Lord of all life, thanks for sharing this journey with us.

Amen.

## THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr.

MASCARA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MASCARA led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. After the first 1-minute speech concerning the guest chaplain, the Chair will recognize up to 15 one-minutes on each side.

## WELCOMING REVEREND DON BORLING, PASTOR, ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH, ORLAND PARK, ILLINOIS

(Mr. NUSSLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise and take this opportunity to welcome to the Chamber Pastor Don Borling, his wife Jude, son Jeremy, daughter Cassie from Orland Park, Illinois, from All Saints Lutheran Church, my home church where I grew up, starting at age 14. In fact, exactly 25 years ago tomorrow, Pastor Don Borling arrived at All Saints Lutheran Church to guide all of us, to give us inspiration, to provide for us the word of God. I want to thank him today for coming and being our guest chaplain.

Mr. Speaker, we have had debate in this Chamber over the last many weeks since some of the tragedies involving young people in this country. And it comes to mind my own personal journey and, as a young teenager, the inspiration, the guidance, and the love that a pastor such as Don Borling gave to me as a young person. I do not know if that would work for everybody, but I can tell my colleagues that the inspiration that he gave me and the influence that he had on my life is something that has been as profound as any of my immediate family.

And so, as we continue to labor today to figure out ways to solve the problems that face our young people, I would just commend to my colleagues that being a mentor, being an inspiration from one person to another, making the kind of connection that we need to make with young people is something that Don has taught me; and I would commend that to my colleagues.

## COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT ACT

(Mr. MASCARA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, the House will soon consider landmark legislation amending Depression-era banking laws. This bill will bring the banking, securities, and insurance industry regulations in line with the 21st century marketplace. These changes will create greater efficiency and consumer choices.

However, one element of this industry that does not reform is the Community Reinvestment Act, known as CRA. CRA has provided for increased loans to distressed communities, expanded homeownership opportunities, and has helped small businesses develop and flourish.

In recent years, two-thirds of all small business loans were made under CRA. It has also provided for a sharp increase in mortgage loans to low and moderate income families.

CRA investments are good investments. Financial institutions recognize the importance of serving their communities. The Community Reinvestment Act is a good, profitable business for banks and the community. I call on my colleagues to support CRA as an important part of financial services reform.

## CUBAN RAFTER INCIDENT

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, the inscription on the Statue of Liberty refers to our great country as the Mother of Exiles, which requests "give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses \* \* \* of your teeming shore."

However, yesterday, the U.S. Coast Guard in South Florida took actions against Cuban freedom seekers which call into question our U.S. commitment to these principles. Not only was it not in the fine tradition of this agency, but it raises grave concern over the treatment of those seeking asylum from brutal dictatorships, such as the Castro regime in Cuba.

The first symbol of liberty these refugees come into contact with is the U.S. Coast Guard. Is their first impression to be unwarranted acts of aggression which violate their human rights?

The Coast Guard has literally saved the lives of thousands of refugees, and